

John Lyding (L116)

To briefly review, the following suggested catalog additions and corrections were first brought to my attention by Joe Laura (#1238). Follow-up information was obtained from Richard Learn (#3265) who now has the covers in his possession. Full size photocopies have been sent to John Randall, the US Catalog Editor.

Perfin pattern C252 (C(ONE/O) was used on the number six cover illustrated by Figure 1 on page 136. The main catalog entry lists this company with a Hartford, CT location. The supplementary data appendix lists several variations of the company name (i.e., Cone-Miller Corp, Cone Miller Co, Cone Export & Comm Co) all of which are listed as being located in New York City. This October 19, 1964, cover presents on of the variants full name and address: Cone Export & Commission Co., 59 Worth Street, New York, NY.

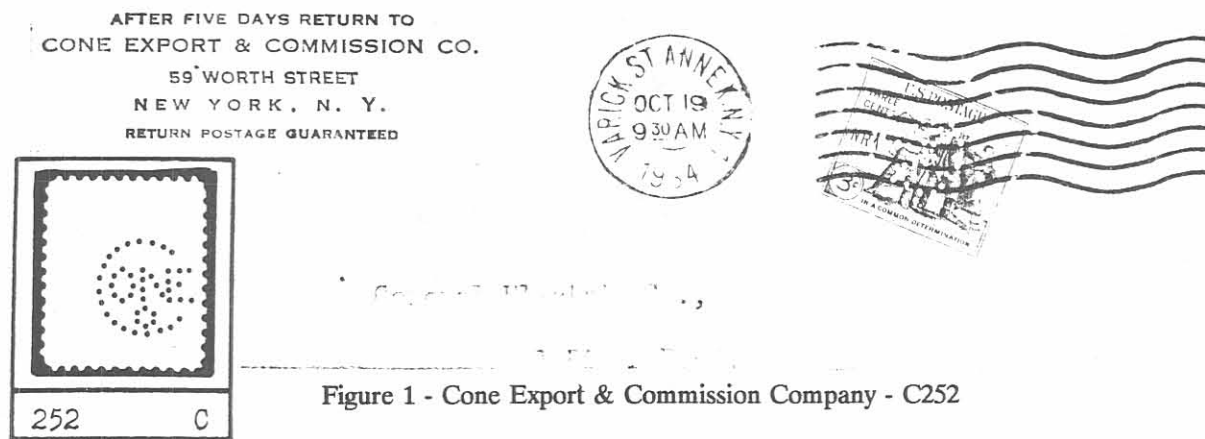


Figure 1 - Cone Export & Commission Company - C252

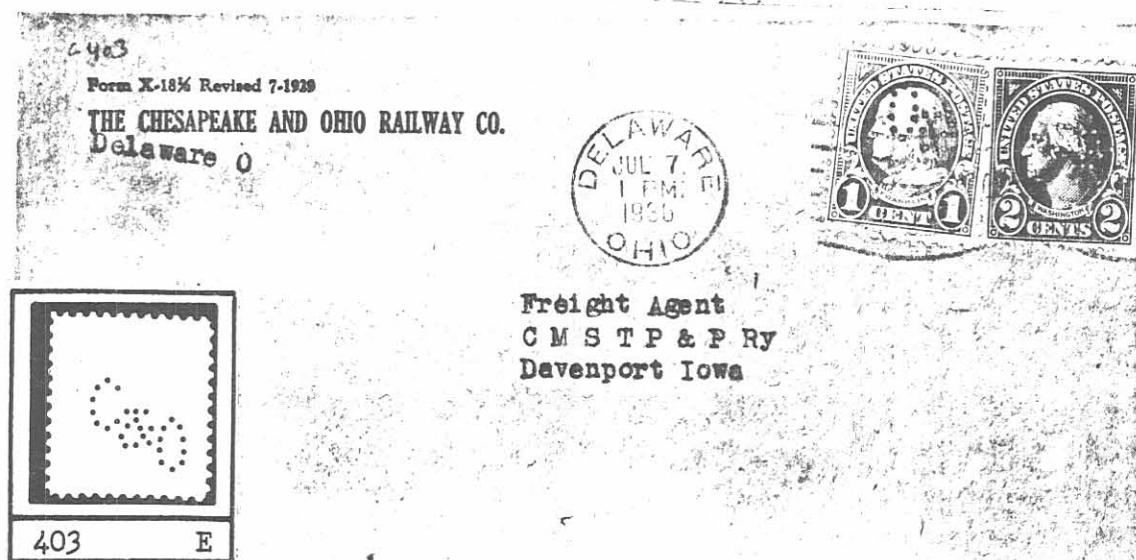


Figure 2 - The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company - C403

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company distinctive C&O perfin pattern is easily recognized on the stamps of Figure 2. While railroad companies are notorious for altering their names, I suggest that the US Catalog Editor consider adding the word "Company" to "Chesapeake & Ohio Rwy" for patterns C402-404.

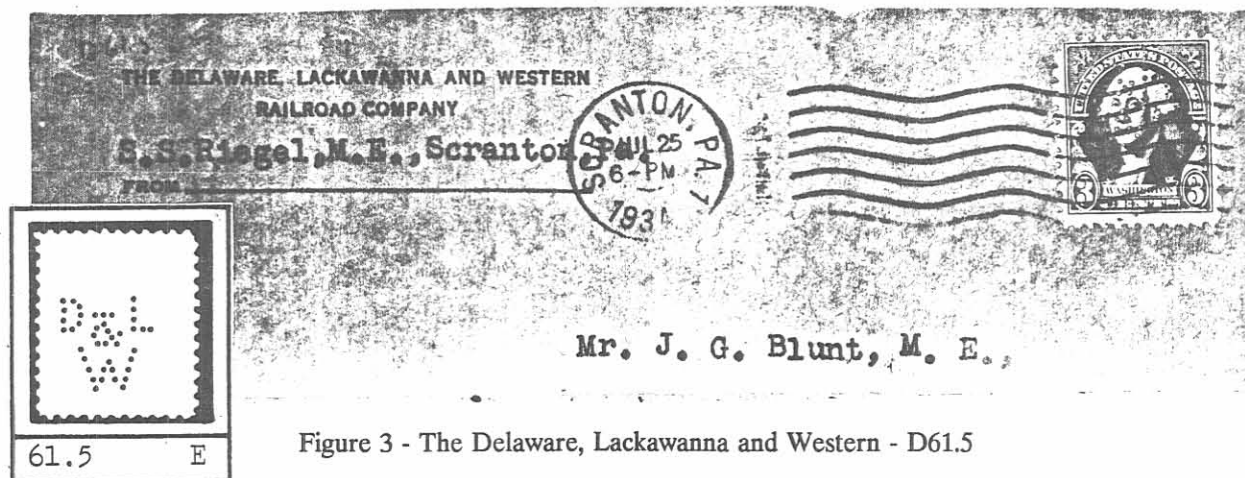


Figure 3 - The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western - D61.5

In a similar vein, Figure 3 and perfin pattern D61.5 used on that envelope is a clear indication that the word "Company" needs to be added to "Delaware, Lackawana and Western RR", on catalog entries D61 and D61.5.

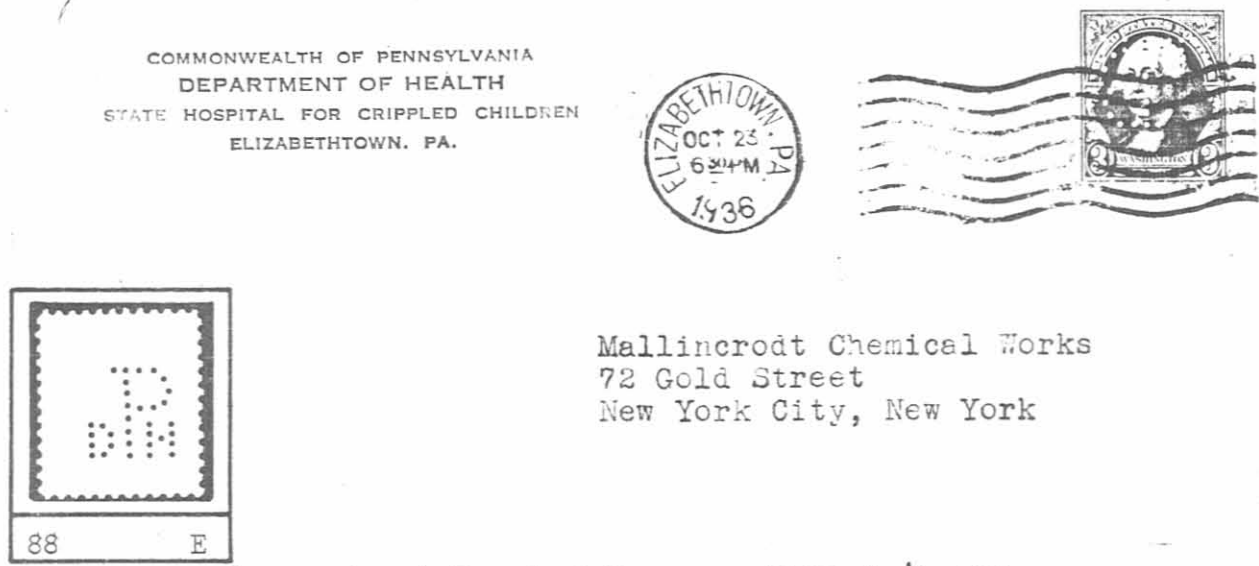


Figure 4 - Pennsylvania Department of Public Health - D88

Perfin pattern D88's user is listed in *The Catalog of United States Perfins* as "Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA." Figure 4 shows a cover that was mailed from the State Hospital for Crippled Children on October 23, 1936. The corner card makes it clear that the hospital was a part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Health. Since there is some ambiguity possible, I suggest that the catalog entry be corrected to read "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Health, Headquarters Harrisburg, PA." Government perfins may be used at a wide variety of locations and there is no need to list each and every user in a department or division.

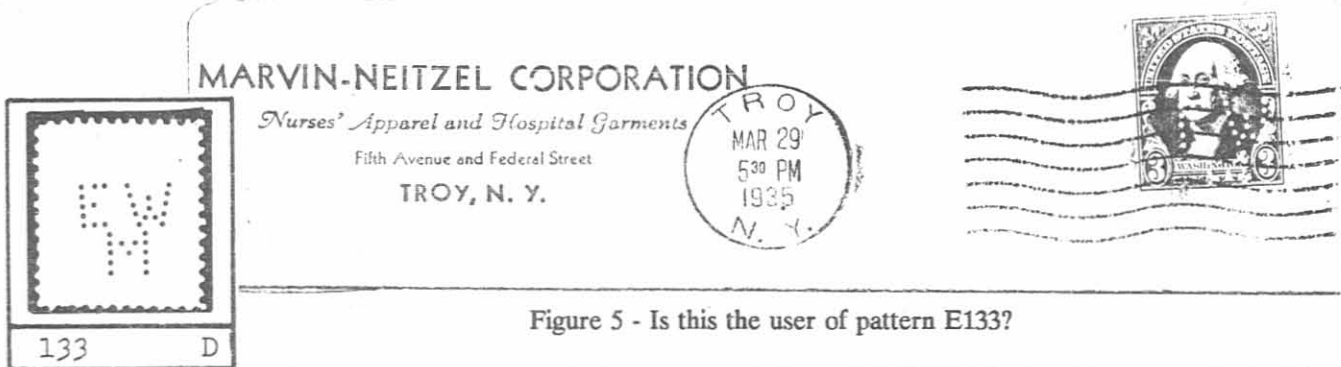


Figure 5 - Is this the user of pattern E133?

Marvin-Neitzel Corporation certainly does not match the initials "EW/M" of perfin pattern E133. However, since no other information has surfaced in the 72 years since the cover strip shown in Figure 5 was posted, it is suggested that the corner card of this March 29, 1937 cover be used to tentatively identify the user

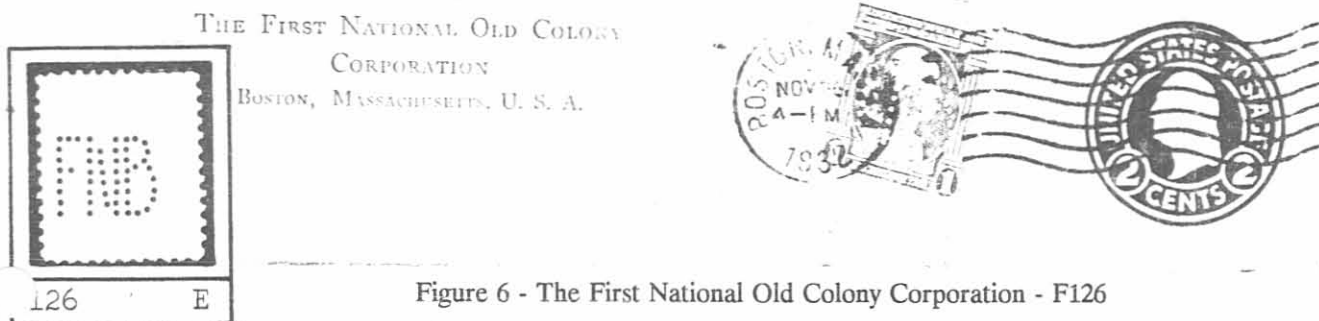


Figure 6 - The First National Old Colony Corporation - F126

The corner card on Figure 6 lists "The First National Old Colony Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A." This November 16, 1932 mailing's stamp is punched with perfin pattern F126 "FNB". The main catalog entry simply lists "First National Bank, Boston, MA." Additions and Corrections 1/82 added "Old Colony Trust Company, Boston, MA." There is no supplementary data in the catalog's appendix.

Apparently, we have been trying to determine the correct user's name for quite some time. Page 2 of the September 1971 issue of *The Perfin Bulletin* reported that there was a possibility that First National Bank's Perforator had several heads. In July 1972, *The Bulletin* reported:

According to the manager of the mail department of the bank, the First National Bank of Boston quit using perfins some time ago and the perforating machine was disposed of. The bank converted to metered mailing and all the perforated stamps were used up. The mailing department manager also stated that the only machine in the bank was the one which was purchased in 1926 and used continuously until the conversion to meters.

One of the secretaries at the bank proved to be the real heroine of the day, however. When the conversion to metered mail was made, the secretary saved a few perforated stamps just in case the new machinery ever went on the blink. From this secretary, Mr. Lougee's correspondent was able to retrieve a strip of six 5¢ stamps and a strip of six 6¢ stamps.

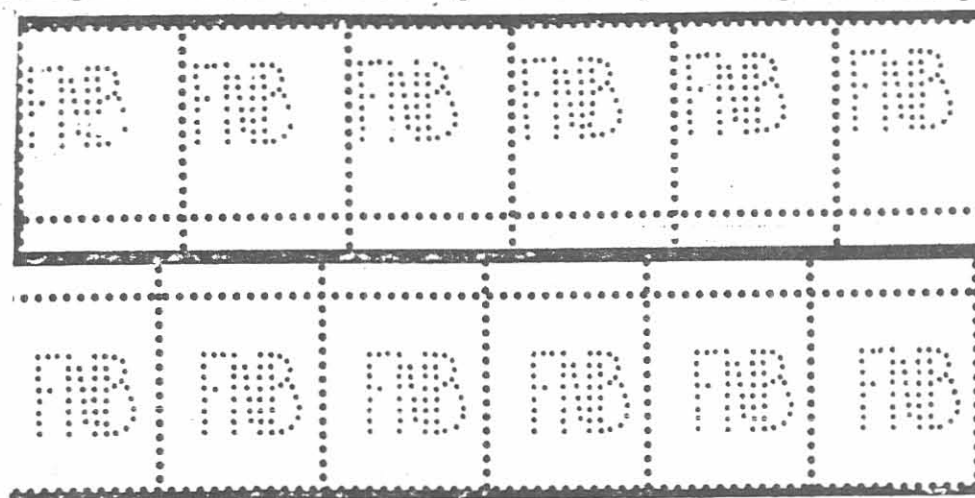


Figure 7 - Stamps punched by multi-head device F126.

The two strips are shown in Figure 7. The 6¢ stamps are on top the 5¢ stamps on the bottom. Mr. Lougee notes that the two strips show both the normal variety and the split bar variety which was the basis (*TPB*, September 1971, p. 2.) for the contention that two different perforators were in use. The general irregularity of the stamps in both strips indicates that the perforator was not in the best of condition and was probably quite capable of producing what might seem like different varieties.

Based on this new information, Mr. Lougee says he believes the FNB perfins were all produced on one perforator, with no more than the normal variations between different heads on the same multi-head perforator.

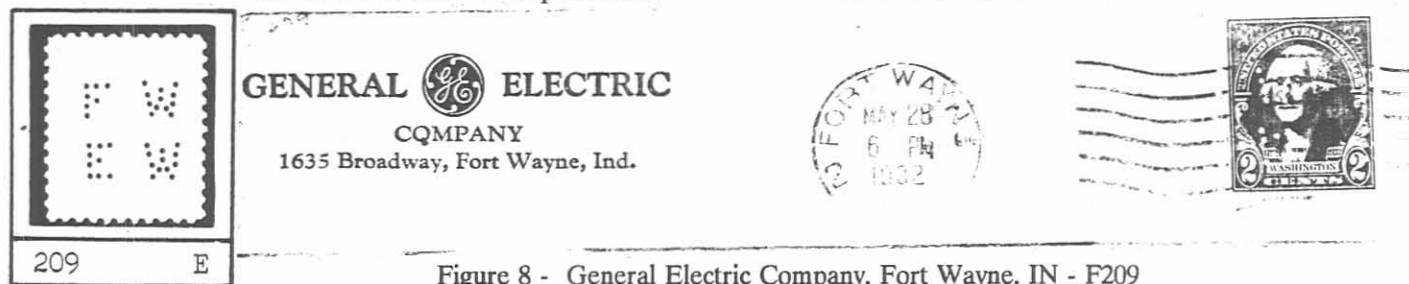


Figure 8 - General Electric Company, Fort Wayne, IN - F209

In September 1982, the Perfins Club's annual meeting was held at INDYPEX'82 in Indianapolis, Indiana. In conjunction with this meeting, the May 1982 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*, p. 43 printed a list of those firms identified as having used perfins in Indiana. The Fort Wayne Electric Works, Fort Wayne, IN (FW/EW) perfin pattern F209 was among those listed. In February 1987, *TPB*, p. 29 illustrated the above cover with the notation "F209 Another take over." That cover reported by Jim Catterick had made the trip to Richard Learn's collection. I suspect that the take over supposition is correct and therefore the supplementary data appendix should list the General Electric Company, 163 Broadway, Fort Wayne, Indiana as is shown on the May 28, 1932 cover strip shown in Figure 8.

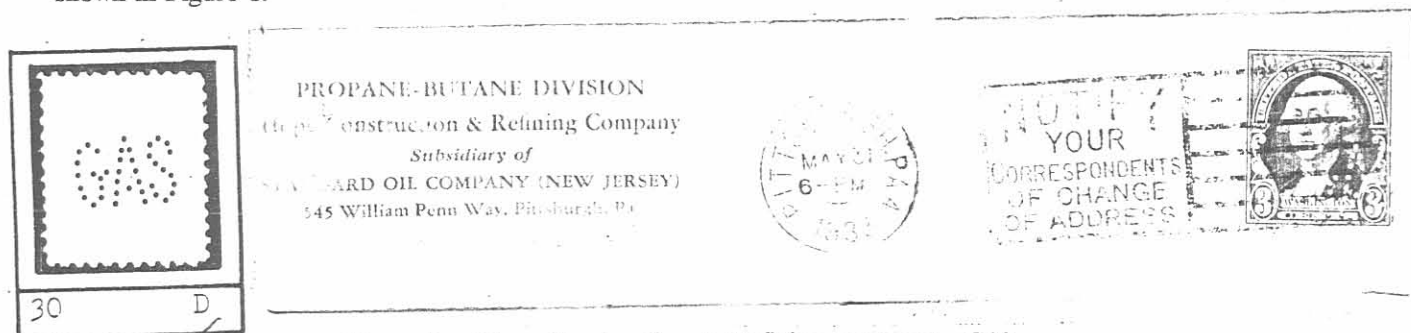


Figure 9 - Hope Construction & Refining Company - G30

The cover of Figure 9 was also illustrated in the February 1987 issue. The Hope National Gas Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is currently listed as the main user of perfin pattern G30 (GAS). The supplementary data appendix lists the Hope Construction Company also located in Pittsburgh, PA as an additional user. Apparently the two companies merged and later were taken over by Standard Oil as may be noted by the corner card of Figure 9. That somewhat lengthy corner card states: "Propane-Butane Division, Hope Construction & Refining Company, Subsidiary of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), 543 William Penn Way, Pittsburgh, PA. I suggest that "Hope Construction & Refining Company, Pittsburgh, PA" be added to the supplementary data appendix.

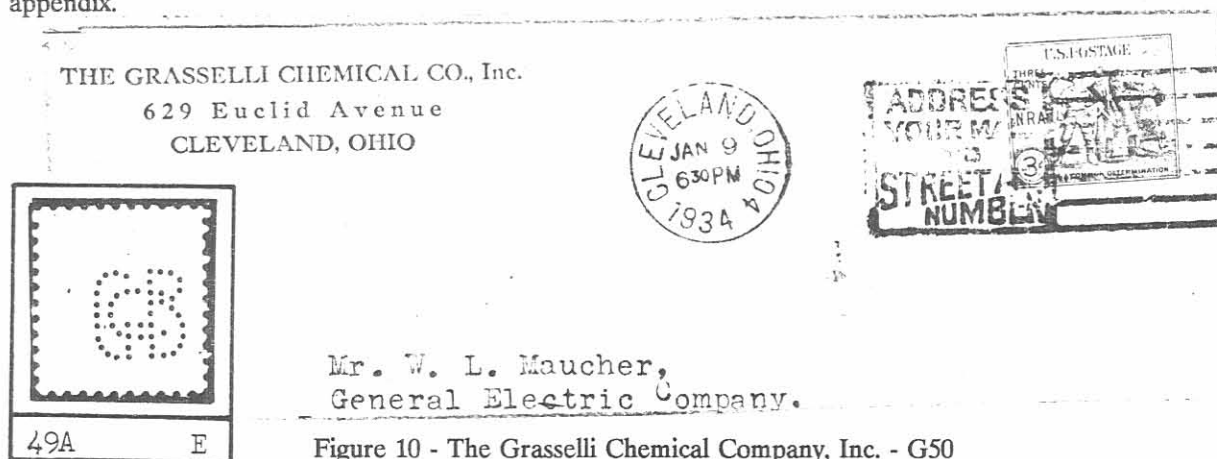


Figure 10 - The Grasselli Chemical Company, Inc. - G50

The Grasselli Chemical Company, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin is the listed user of perfin pattern G50 (GCC). The company's Cleveland, Ohio location is already noted in the catalog's supplementary appendix. The January 9, 1934, cover strip illustrated in Figure 10 provides us with the 639 Euclid Avenue address for the Cleveland location. There is a possibility that the company was incorporated some time after they started using perfins; however, in the absence of other data, I would add "Inc." to the main catalog listing to bring it up to date.

(To be continued)